Plant Pathology Circular No. 87
November 1969

Florida Department of Agriculture
Division of Plant Industry

CEPHALOSPORIUM LEAF SPOT OF SYNGONIUM

S. A. Alfieri, Jr.

Syngonium, commonly known as Nephthytis, is grown as a very popular foliage ornamental. Varieties vary in leaf form and variegation. In Florida it ranks fourth in economic importance in the foliage ornamental industry. The fungus Cephalosporium cinnamomeum Linn is the causal agent of the leaf spot on Syngonium podophyllum Schott. This disease was first reported by Linn (2) in 1940. The incidence of leaf spot of Syngonium varies with the varieties grown and the cultural conditions of propagation. 'Emerald Gem' is most susceptible, 'Green Gold' moderately susceptible, and 'Cream Giant' least susceptible (1).

SYMPTOMS. The leaf spots appear as very tiny, circular to slightly irregular, reddish brown lesions with a conspicuous yellow border (Fig. 1). The spots enlarge slowly and seldom reach a diameter of more than 3-4 mm. The youngest leaves are the most susceptible and initial infection begins with these leaves. Rarely, if ever, do older mature leaves become infected. Hence, spots seen on older leaves begin when the leaves are young.

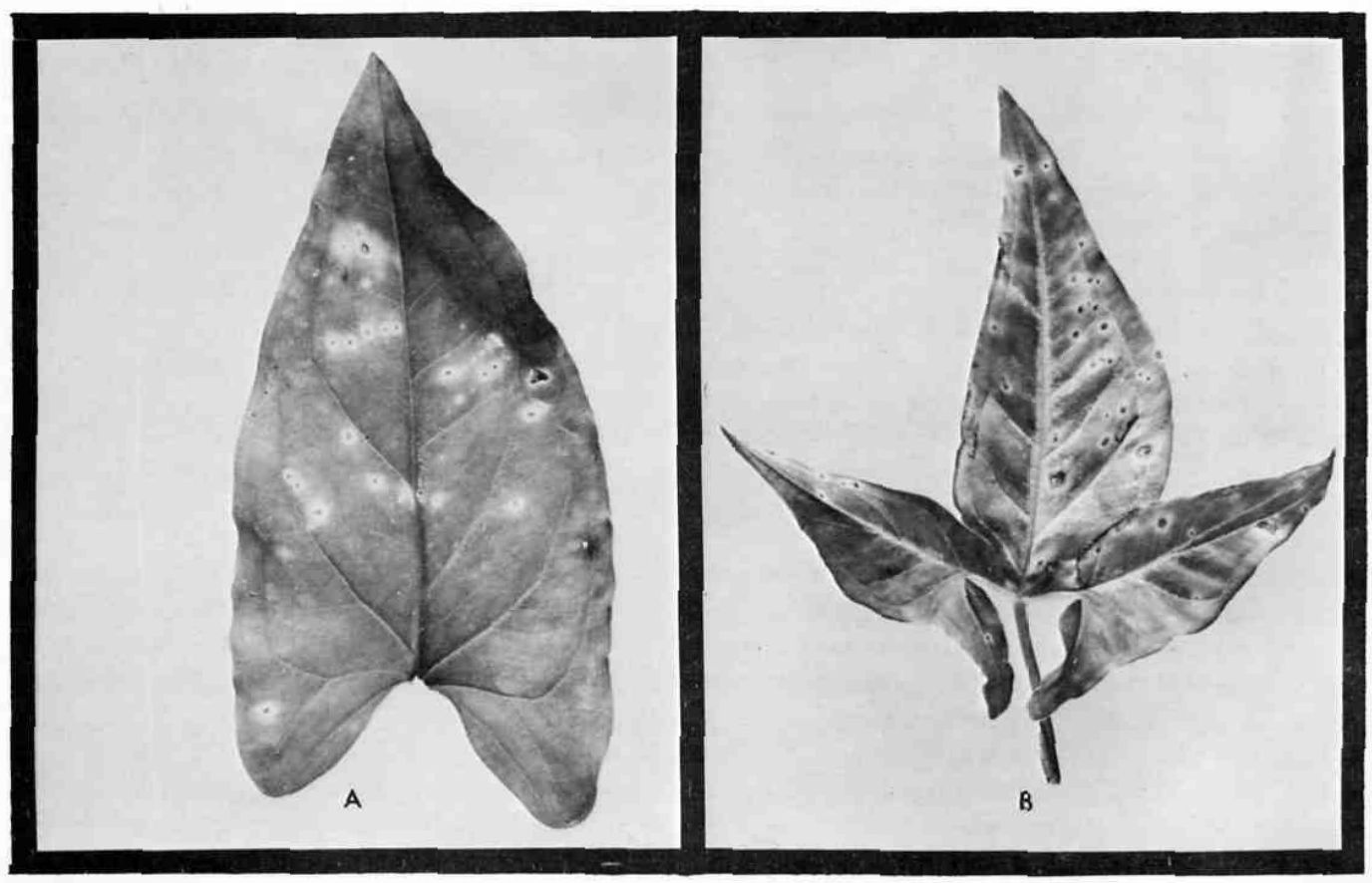

Fig. 1. Cephalosporium leaf spot of Syngonium: A) 'Emerald Gem'; B) 'Green Gold'.

CONTROL. Dithane M45 and Daconil are beneficial in providing some degree of control of the leaf spot (1). Possibly other untested fungicides may prove more effective than these materials.

Literature Cited

1. Alfieri, S. A., Jr. and C. Wehlburg. 1969. Cephalosporium leaf spot of Syngonium podophyllum Schott. Proc. Fla. State Hort. Soc. (In press).
2. Linn, M. B. 1940. Cephalosporium leaf spot of two aroids. Phytopathology 30:968–972.